

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement of 21st March, 2002, in All India Judges Association & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Ors, had directed that the recommendations of the First National Judicial Pay Commission (FNJPC) relating to structure of emoluments, conditions of service including pension and other related benefits, minimum qualifications, age of recruitment, retirement, method of recruitment, work methods and work environment etc. of Judicial Officers in States be implemented. All State Governments are party to this case. The Supreme Court is regularly monitoring the implementation of its aforesaid order.

Further, under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Courts. Also, in exercise of powers conferred under proviso to article 309 read with article 233 and 234 of the Constitution, the State Government frames rules and regulations in consultation with the High Court. The members of the State Judicial Service are employees of State Government and are governed by these rules and regulations.

Computerisation of district courts

1240. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to computerize district courts to bring in more transparency and efficiency in their working and to ensure speedy disposal of cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the aim and objectives of such an exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) In order to enhance judicial productivity and also to make the justice delivery system more transparent and efficient and ensuring speedy disposal of cases, Government has initiated implementation of a scheme for computerization of District and Subordinate Courts of this country and linking the lowest court to the highest electronically. The scheme includes providing and installation of computer hardware in the courts, installing Information and Communication Technology facilities, upgradation of the existing computerization facilities

in the Supreme Court and the High Courts, training of the judicial officers, etc. In a separate exercise undertaken earlier, Government has implemented computerization of courts in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata and courts in State capitals and cities that have seats of High Courts.

Achievements of Mediation and Conciliation Centre

1241. SHRI K.P.K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest achievements of the first Mediation and Conciliation Centre in the country, started at the Madras High Court Campus last year;

(b) whether as per initial reports, this Centre was successful though this concept has its origin in the western countries and is new to India;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry would extend all encouragement by offering more facilities; and

(d) whether in view of the fact that many a States are interested in starting such centres in their States to facilitate clearing of heavy backlog in their courts, the Centre will provide statutory patronage for such centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The cases referred by the Madras High Court to the Tamil Nadu Mediation and Conciliation Centre, Chennai include personal and family matters, contracts and civil disputes, property and partition suits, company petitions and arbitration cases. Most of the cases are complex ones. Over 380 cases have been referred and the success rate in cases taken up for mediation is around 50%. The Centre has undertaken training programmes at the district courts level in Tamil Nadu and has also assisted other High Courts by training and helping them establish Mediation Centres. The Centre has so far trained 445 mediators in Tamil Nadu and other States. The Centre organized an all-India training for trainers in mediation which was held in Chennai in July 22-24, 2006. Training has been given to the lawyers of the Delhi High Court and of the Calcutta High Court. The Centre has also helped set up Delhi High Court's Mediation and Conciliation Centre. The Centre's team has also trained mediators of the Allahabad High Court and helped that court to set up its Mediation and Conciliation Centre. It has also taken the lead in establishing an Association of Indian Mediators.